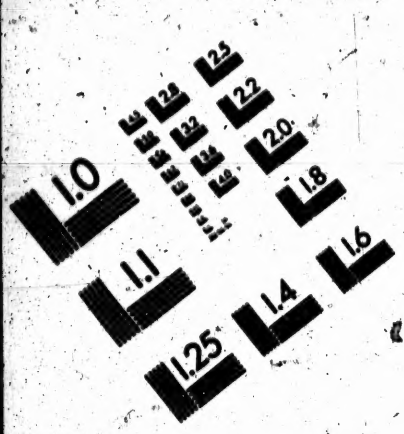


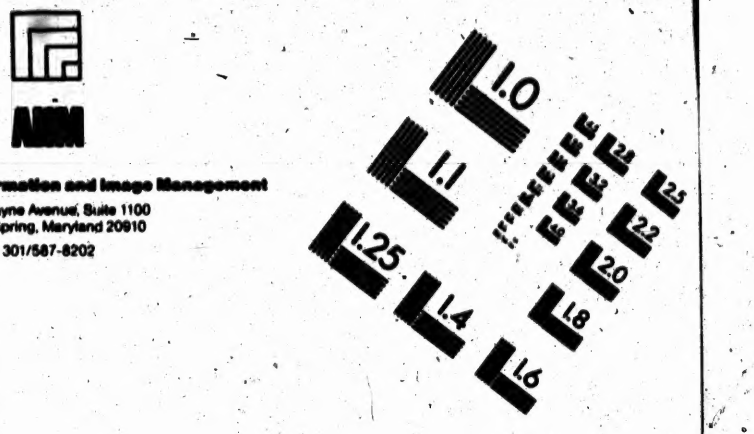

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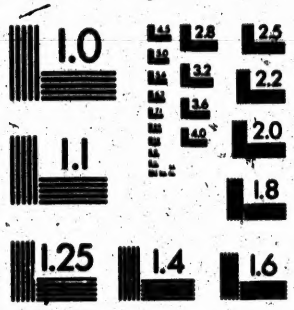








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## *PREFATORY NOTE.*

*The following Extracts, taken from the Kingston Gazette and Niagara Spectator, should be interesting to the public, did they only fix attention on the Post-Office management of Upper Canada.*

*They are republished by me, at this time, that the people of the Midland and Johnstown Districts, by reviewing the whole, may the better be enabled to judge the truth, from the midst of falsehoods, willfully invented and propogated to injure my character, while most important questions, as well for the public as myself, lay for trial at the ensuing assizes, and which thereby, may be misjudged. This is the more necessary since it appears that the Editor of the Newspaper which circulates through these Districts is at the command of the adverse party. All men are subject to error; but in this republished narrative I see nothing incorrect; and, it has been my invariable rule, to attack no one who has not previously endeavoured to injure me. If I am tried by this, and the truth alone, I shall neither fear for myself nor the public cause.*

*R. G.*

# NARRATIVE

## *Addressed, to the worthy Inhabitants*

OF THE

## *DISTRICT of NIAGARA.*

*Kingston, 12th June, 1818.*

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING been entrusted, by your petitioning Representatives, with circulating certain pamphlets and papers over the Midland, Johnstown, the Eastern, and Ottawa, Districts, it is well to communicate to you how far I have discharged this duty, and what has occurred, in connection with the business, since my departure from Niagara.

On my landing here from the Steam Boat, the 18th May, I was happy to find many people warm in our cause. The republication, in the Kingston Gazette, of all the writings which have nursed it up, in the Spectator, has had this effect; and while such benefit has been gained to us, I am happy to find that the independent spirit of the Editor, has been rewarded by an increased demand for his Newspaper.

The 19th was so wet that there was no stirring out; but on the 20th, accompanied by a zealous friend, I proceeded to Ernest-Town; and, there, made effectual arrangements in the business, for all the Townships of the Midland District. The fine situation of the Village of Ernest-Town, the fertility of the soil around it, the improvements already effected, together with the delightful prospects towards the Lake, its islands, bays, and promontories, all tend to elevate the spirits of him who journeys here. Often indeed has it been my lot to feel the effect of such influences in Canada; and much have they contributed to cheer the hopes and strengthen the zeal, which have yet been unceasing, towards the promotion of the interests of a country so pressingly inviting. Alas! how deplorable is it, when pursuing such objects, surrounded by such incitements, and countenanced by the general good wishes of the inhabitants, to witness the low, waspish, and perverse, dispositions of some individuals. At Ernest-Town a most extraordinary case of this kind occurred.

A young lawyer, of the name of Hagerman, called at the Inn, to be introduced to me, and, in the course of conversation, I was informed that he had acted as Town Clerk, at the annual Meeting of Adolphustown, where the people agreed as to the propriety of replying to my Statistical Queries. A report was accordingly approved of, signed by the chairman, and ordered to be deposited by Hagerman, in the Kingston Post Office, addressed to me. This duty was accordingly done, but, our Lawyer, having afterwards taken offence at some of my writings, had the Report withdrawn from the Post Office. It did not require a moment's cogitation to settle the point, as to the propriety and illegality of this act. Before Mr. Hagerman, dared to do such a thing, even if legal, he should first have obtained a meeting of the people of Adolphustown, and known *their* opinion on the subject. In the next place, it should have entered into the consideration of all parties, whether to withdraw the Report was admissible by the law. I know and assert that it was not. The moment that any letter or packet is put into the Post Office, that moment it becomes the property of him to whom it is addressed; and neither the first owner, nor the master of the Office, has the smallest right to use liberties with it. Nearly two months ago, I had private information that Mr. Macaulay had been taking unwarrantable liberties in this way; but, as I am not so hasty as some people, I quietly waited for information on the spot, and this case presented itself without effort, on my part. As I have, before, publicly stated, that an abundant flow of Township Reports had come into my hands, and that superabundance was rather to be dreaded, I could bear the deprivation of that entrusted to the *faithful* and *zealous* Clerk of Adolphustown, with perfect quiescence, and, in the best humour, told Mr. Hagerman, that I should commence an amicable suit against him, and the master of the Kingston Post Office; but, Mr. H. was not contented to wait the award of law: he must needs settle the question forthwith; and, finding it impossible to provoke *me* into passion, most unmercifully opened the sluices of tinker eloquence against a Byestander, who happened to give it as his opinion that Mr. Hagerman had done wrong; and on my departure, the jaws of the Lawyer still quivered

"With words of learn'd length and thundering sound."

On Friday 22d, I had opportunity of proceeding by the Bay and River Steam Boat, to Prescott. By the way I called on Colonel Stone, at Gannanoque, a worthy Gentlemen, who had also withheld a Statistical Report from me, under the evil influences of the times and the Doctor. Of all things I wish to *speak* with those who have been misled, by slander, into suspicion of my character. Speaking, I consider, to be efficacious at all times, against ghosts. I missed Col. Stone, but have since spent a pleasant day with him; and, in the course of time, doubt not but I shall let in a liberal flow of air into every haunted house of the Province. Your ghosts have indeed no right to be pertinacious on this side the Atlantic. Here we have

no ivy-clad ruins—no secret recesses behind old wainscoting—no gloomy tapestry to keep them long hid, or give them countenance. Away with ghosts, and your worse than superstitious fears—your low and unmannerly suspicions.

At Brockville, we halted half an hour, and I have since made several calls there. It it outwardly a delightful place; and, when it contains as much honesty as petty-fogging law, will be truly enviable.

Prescott is situated at one corner of the township of Augusta, where dwell Solomon Jones, J. D. C. John Bethune, Clerk, H. Walker, D. C. and others of notoriety. Arrangements being made in this township for the meeting of which I have given account in the Kingston Gazette of 2d. inst.* I made an excursion through Oxford, Wolford, Kitley, Elmsly, Bastard, Yonge, and Elizabethtown; in all of which townships, I found the people greatly pleased with our proposals.

By holding a meeting in Augusta, every sensible man must be satisfied, that I could have no view towards *lowering* the character of those who had wantonly attacked mine. The character of these people was quite low enough. They had brought themselves into a dilemma, from which nothing but candid confession and apology could extricate them; and, as I had heard at Kingston, that there

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*To the Editor of the Kingston Gazette.*

*Augusta, 29th May*, 1818.

Sir—On my way passing through Kingston I observed in your paper of the 12th inst. a letter addressed to me by John Simpson; and I found that some persons expected that I should make a reply to that letter: it required none. The unblushing folly—the filthy and false insinuations which it contained, were sufficient antidotes for the bane. One thing I had resolved to do as soon as opportunity offered, viz: to give the people of this Township a meeting, so as to learn from themselves the truth, whether they authorized or approved of the publication of certain persons, stiling themselves a "a committee chosen at the annual Town meeting of Augusta," which appeared in your paper of the 2d March. With this view I circulated a handbill with these words.

"*Mr. GOURLAY begs leave to inform the inhabitants of Augusta, that he will be at the house of* Isaac Hurd, *in the said Township, on Wednesday next the 27th May, ready to shake any honest man by the hand, or look in the face those who have dared to slander his character.*"

A large meeting took place in consequence of this; and it was clearly proved that no committee was chosen at the Annual town meeting of Augusta. It was also evident that the Township contained many more honest men than slanderers. My first Address to the Resident Land Owners of Upper Canada, which was said to contain "*principles* inimical to the peace and quiet which the people of this Province so happily enjoy" was read over, but not a man dared to open his mouth in proof of the base assertion; although a wretched party seemed to feel some solace in listening to an attack on the proceedings and principles of the people of Niagara District, which, wherever I go, seem to meet the approbation of the great body of the community. I shall be glad if you will give insertion to this in your next Gazette.

And am, &c.

ROBERT GOURLAY.

were, among them, some who regretted what they had done, my design was, after establishing a few facts, before the collective body of their neighbours, to afford an opportunity for reconciliation, by declaring myself willing to forgive every one who should confess his error. Unfortunately a very different spirit than that of repentance prevailed in the breasts of these infatuated men. I was no sooner arrived at the place of meeting, than, apprised of a combination among them to outstare the truth; and, that this combination was strengthened by partisans from other townships. I had not, prior to my arrival in Augusta, been acquainted with a single individual of that township, who attended this meeting, yet many came forward and shook hands with me most cordially, and one gentlemen handed me a note intimating, that, five to one, were in my favour.

Knowing the confusion which a combination, even of a few desperate characters, can produce in a multitude, I called for, and obtained, a list of those present, resident in Augusta—protested against the interference of others, and required that every fact, established before the meeting, should be committed, immediately, to writing. A Clerk was, for these purposes, nominated by the meeting, and was paid for his trouble, by some of the gentlemen present, who were desirous of regular proceedings.

In my published account of this meeting, I waved a recital of the disgusting conduct of the band of desperadoes, and am sorry to think, that, in His Majesty's dominions, I should witness such indecency: certainly, at home, I never had experience of such a spirit of insolent hardihood. What was asserted by one, was denied by another of the gang: what was recorded openly as the sense of the meeting was contradicted as soon as its bearing against the culprits was discovered; but, perhaps the tissue of palpable falsehoods published by them, without a name in the Kingston Gazette of the 9th June, forms the best evidence, taken in connection with the idiocy of holding a second meeting, to console themselves with *victory*, after I was—*eighty miles off!!*

The name of Mr. Jonas Jones should not have been mentioned by me, had his associates not announced him. Till the 27th May I had been given to believe that he possessed some share of sense and discretion. Alas! what can we think of a Member of Parliament who espouses such a cause as that of the self-stiled Committee of Augusta? It was Mr. Jones who was haranguing against our Address to the Regent, when I, and the major part of the people, left the meeting, disgusted with an intruder persisting in declaiming on a subject wholly foreign to the business at issue: indeed, at any rate, the Address of the District of Niagara, ought not to have been a subject of *complaint*. It was printed merely to give the public an opportunity of improving upon it, by *dispassionate* criticism; and, every District has a right to present such an Address as best suits the ideas, or need, of its Inhabitants. The Inhabitants of Niagara, by no means wished to press their's upon any one. If the friends of Mr. Jones—the

Judge, the Priest, and the Scribe, think that all is over, they may yet be mistaken. We may have to submit to the slang of common vagabonds; but there are ways of making men in office *feel* for their misconduct; and, I trust, that neither the Governor, nor Bishop of Canada, will prove insensate to the gross violation of decency and common sense, in a District Judge, or, established Clergyman.

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*The following is a copy of the notes taken at the meeting, and attested by the Clerk's signature.*

At a meeting of Inhabitants of the township of Augusta, held at the house of Isaac Hurd, the 27th of May, 1818—Richard Arnold, Esq. in the chair: it was moved and carried, unanimously, that the names of the persons present be recorded.

2d. Mr. Gourlay having invited only "the Inhabitants of Augusta" to meet him at Isaac Hurd's, enters his protest against all those who are not *resident inhabitants*, speaking or voting on this occasion.

3d. In the newspapers containing Resolutions of "the Committee of the Inhabitants of Augusta," Oliver Luert, misprinted for Oliver Everts.

4th. The meeting, at which the Committee was appointed, was not the regular, annual and legal Town Meeting.

5th. Heman Landon, Esq. was at the meeting which appointed the Committee, and, says, "he thinks John Simpson was not appointed."

(Signed) JOHN PENNOCK, Clerk.

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On the 28th May I reached Johnstown, and next day proceeded, by the stage, to the ferry house in Lancaster, leaving the pamphlets and papers at the stores and taverns, along the whole route. The 30th and 31st I passed through a considerable portion of Glengary, and, on the 1st June, got into the District of Ottawa, where I had most hearty welcome from the principal inhabitants. Mr. McDonnell, the present Member of Assembly for that District, Mr. Mears, the former member, Colonel Fortune, Mr. Grant, and many others, seemed all equally willing to espouse the great public cause; and, assured me, that, though, on account of the extreme distance to York, they might not send a member to the convention, they would nevertheless approve of our measure for enquiry into the state of the Province, and advance a sum of money, in aid, proportionate to the contribution of any other District.

On the 3d June I retraced my steps into the upper part of Glengary, and had the pleasure to find the people already alive in our common interests. It had been, with much difficulty, that I could procure horses on my advance: now, they were cheerfully volunteered; and, through the zeal of one worthy individual, I was able to attend two training meetings on the 4th of June. At the first I discovered that some ignorant individuals had been prejudiced against the cause: at the second, in Williamstown, open war had been de-

cleared, against it, by leading characters; but at both places I had the satisfaction to see how easy it was, by explanation, to give a very different cast to the countenances around me; and at both places, I left many sincerely willing to exert themselves, in forwarding our views.

*Kingston, 29th June, 1818.*

On my approach to Cornwall, on the 8th June, I had intimation, of strange proceedings which had gone on there, and in the neighbourhood, the day preceding—the burning of pamphlets and papers, and threatened burning of me in effigy. My stay in the village was short, but, both here and onward, quite sufficient to afford me abundant information, as there were persons every where anxious to speak out their disgust of words and actions which had shocked their feelings and cast a stain on the character of the country.

When a single individual, moved by sudden passion, commits an act of madness, or gives vent to indecent language, our pity looks wistfully to the effect of some returning sense of shame, and we trust, that conscience, alone, will soon carry her point. When a number of men conspire together for wicked purposes—act in concert—have the hardihood to publish their sentiments and proceedings—by mutual support suppress the influences of conscience, and, by noisy triumph carry along with them the thoughtless multitude, then, active measures are called for in opposition,—then, it is improper to set bounds to the severity of judgment, or to restrain any expression which can paint iniquity in appropriate colours;—then we must no longer be softened by pity towards the guilty, but alarm society against the dangerous inroads of confirmed vice and immorality.

The speech which was read to the training meeting in Stormont, and elsewhere, now published in the Montreal Herald, and which I have desired to be inserted in the Niagara Spectator, infamous as it is, gives but a faint idea of the filthy sentiments of its promulgators, or of their worse than filthy acts. The prophanity of Crysler, the Member of Assembly, with the gross and blackguard conduct and designs of several of the friends and pupils of Dr. Strachan, can only be believed, when proved with all the solemnity of a court of justice, and to this the subject is now likely to be brought. The process may give much personal trouble to me; but the country will receive benefit by the agitation of such questions, and the full development of truth.

All the way up to Brockville, which I reached by the 9th June, more and more information was afforded me, and the fullest conviction took hold of my mind, that even to that place, a correspondence and sympathy had existed among our enemies. So early as the 29th of May, on which day I departed from Johnstown, down-

warm, by the stage; active operations against our views had been commenced by the enemy; one of whom had followed close after me, in a little one horse waggon, and pulled down the advertisements put up at the taverns, before the posts, with which they were stuck up, with dogs.

Passion proceeding from various points, and from various unhallowed feelings and desires, had tended to strengthen outrage; and, at no point—from no worthy feeling or desire, can a rational pretext for the actors, or their abettors and abettors, be found. From the commencement of my writing on public topics in Canada, I have never been the first to offend; nay, it is well known to you that for three months after my first essay, while I had not yet named a single individual resident in this Province with disrespect, I bore all sorts of personal abuse without deigning to reply. When I did find it necessary to go into action against public men and measures, I struck hard, not in anger but in duty, and, for the cause of truth alone. At this moment I am perfectly convinced that nothing less could have answered the purpose. There was a species of morbid decay and corruption fast rooted in this Province, which mild treatment could not reach; and, without harshness, there was no possibility of putting down the clamour of fools. My spirit is the very opposite of what many little minded people have imagined. I am a lover of peace and retirement—an admirer of all that nature places before us to lead on to harmony and good order. In my boyhood, my chief delight was found among the flowers of the field and in the unbounded confidence of warm hearted companions. Alas! how glad should I be, did the stern duties of manhood yet suffer me to indulge myself with these!

On my present journey I have not been acting for myself. I undertook the business for the Niagara Committee, and what I undertake I shall never trifle with. I have circulated the pamphlets and papers entrusted to my care below Lake Ontario, as other four persons sent to the Western, London, Gore, Midland, and Newcastle Districts, have been charged to do. Not a particle of responsibility for what is contained in these publications attaches to me more than to thousands besides, who have adopted their principles and given them circulation; but in Brockville—in Augusta—in Cornwall, and elsewhere, personal pique, ignorance, contumacy, and revenge, have stirred up a host against me. In the publications of Niagara District, all is open, frank, liberal and plain, yet malignant and uncharitable spirits, from their own evil imaginations have conjured up, out of these publications, mean insinuations, and the basest accusations of secrecy—of hypocrisy—of every odious intention and desire:—because these grovelling wretches never soared into the regions of benevolence,—because they cannot see truth through the midst of their own iniquity;—because they cannot think it possible that any one, for the sake of virtue and the general advancement of human happiness, can bestow his time, his labour, and his utmost desire—therefore they will rage in anger, and drag us down to their hellish abodes.

On the 11th of June, I returned to Kingston; and here encountered the most important event of my journey—an occurrence demanding the most serious attention of every man of Upper Canada who boasts of independence. Sitting, after dinner, with some friends, at our wine, the day of my arrival here, I was called out and arrested by a warrant signed by T. Markland, J. P. Always obedient to law, I immediately waited on the Magistrate, and was told by him, that he had issued the warrant, *by the authority and under the direction of the Attorney General, through the agency of Mr. Hagerman, and on the oath of Mr. Mills, the Printer.* With this declaration, and bail to the amount of one thousand pounds being required and given, the affair waits for issue at the next Kingston Assises: the issue will declare the fate of this country for years to come—if it is to labour under the Administration of fools, or quickly rise, by its own manly spirit, to that dignity which the finest Province, under British dominion, ought to maintain.

To me this occurrence is most serious. It deranges all my plans of returning to, my family, and, management of my private affairs; but, I submit, with the utmost cheerfulness, in the full hope that whatever misfortune it may bring upon me, as an individual, it will eventually forward the great cause in which we are embarked. That the libel with which I am charged as the publisher, is contained in the Address to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, I have no doubt, and I may call to mind how openly—how deliberately—how dispassionately, that address was considered when in manuscript, before the fifteen Representatives of the Townships of Niagara District, assembled at St. Catherines, on the 4th May last; and with what still greater attention and care it was scanned over, sentence after sentence, by the Committee, next day, both in my presence and when I was required to withdraw, that the Committee might thereby be free from delicacy, in making their remarks and amendments:—in short, if ever any production was that of a body of men, calmly met to consider of their constitutional rights, and act upon them in honesty and pure intention, this Address is one; and, as such it must be defended. I composed it to express as nearly as possible, the present feeling of the people of Upper Canada, and were I to compose it again, I would not mince its declarations, for they are true. In defending them I shall assume high grounds. We are entitled to do so, and to descend one step, will be giving up all.—No, my worthy friends, not an inch of the ground we stand upon must be given up, for, give up that inch, and a new series of years of humility and degradation must mark the history of Upper Canada. For once let us, by firm conduct, maintain the law—fly in the face of arbitrary power—mark, with due rebrobation, the neglects of ministers, and then we may expect to enjoy not only peace but prosperity,—then, we shall no longer have need to appeal to our Sovereign for redress; rulers will respect the laws, and, well admi-

tolerated laws, will receive respect from the people, to their rulers.

Some of the best informed people of this place have told me, they think Hagerman, the agent in this business, capable of [illegible] to order the arrest, without any positive authority from the Attorney General. This Hagerman is brother of the petulant fellow who cut such a figure at Ernest-Town, and of another, who, I have said, was many years confined in the States prison, for forgery, now reported to be hanged; but for all this I am of a different opinion.

When I wrote my second address to the Resident Land Owners of Upper Canada, in the beginning of February last, the Honorable William Dickson, who was so well pleased with it, as to offer me 500 acres of land, for the good it was likely to produce to the Province, said, that if the people in York would now but arrest me, the business would be completed. Unfortunately they did not then think it prudent, although, to a certainty, that address contained matter as libellous as that for which I am now to be tried. In that case I had offered to prove the truth of what I asserted before the bar of Parliament. Truth proved before a Jury of independent men, I trust, will render our assertions equally safe. It has been said, the greater the truth, the greater the libel; but, there is a mighty odds between truth wantonly told to the injury of an individual, and those great truths which must be told to support the dignity of a misgoverned people, and as a protest against insulted laws—truth told by one, and truth told by thousands—truth bursting from the honorable feelings of a loyal people—truth which ought not, and cannot be concealed.

When the Hon. William Dickson, returned from the Parliamentary session at York, and had ceased to be my friend, then I heard he was anxious to have me arrested, from different motives from those, which two months before had occurred to him—then, I heard, he entreated Colonel Claus to arrest me for my address, of the 2d April; but, Col. Claus, it was said, very prudently declined, telling Mr. D. he might as well do it himself.

Mr. D. crossed with me in the Steam-Boat to York; and it does seem possible, that, upon the additional ground of the address to the Prince Regent, then just published, he may have prevailed, with the Attorney General, who was the apprentice of his apprentice—his grandson in legal erudition to assume, a power detested by every good man at home—that of proceeding by an *ex-officio* process.

Hagerman the agent, I was told, said, that he had the Attorney General's authority to arrest me *fortnights* before he had acted upon it; but fortnights, even *two*, it could not have been, for at that distance of time the Pamphlet of the Niagara Committee, could not possibly have been seen by the Attorney General, even at York; and the earliest intelligence could have come by the Steam Boat which brought me to Kingston—say, in the pocket of Chief Justice Powell. Now, if the power of arrest came at that

time, what policy could have prompted delay? Near the *end of guessing*, let us *guess*. Mr. Hagerman might have been instructed, thus "use your power only in case of the last extremity. If you can get your brother, or some other blackguard, to involve Mr. Gourlay in a brawl, so as to bring disgrace upon his character, and thereby frustrate his views of getting the people to meet and act on his instructions, good.—If that fails, still resort to accidents in the Midland District: invent some false reports so that the five Township Representatives may not meet on the day appointed, at one place. As for the Johnstown and Eastern Districts, there is less risk of the people, there, acting with union, as they seldom see Newspapers. Take care, however, to correspond with the Lawyers of Brockville and Cornwall, that they may "take away the key of knowledge," and confound the truth with their combined talents. Should all this fail:—should even the people of the Midland District generally organise themselves by the appointment of Township Representatives, and a chance be thereby afforded of their getting together and actually choosing five, to proceed to York; then, and in that case, play off the last card of arrest.—It is ten to one, if Mr. G, a stranger in your part of the country, can find bail: he will be shut up: terror will spread abroad; and distraction will gain success to the trick. If we remain in power we shall easily manage the state Prisoner; and you and all who help us, Mr. Hagerman, shall verily have your reward."

One thing they have really accomplished—they have prevented my going home immediately, with the Commission from Upper Canada; and may think, that our schemes, thus weakened, or delayed, may save the rotten house from falling about their ears; but they are mistaken; and if the convention which is to assemble this day week, at York, follows my counsel, we shall convert every machination against our designs into advantage for the cause. O yes! it must succeed; honesty is always the best policy, and fortune favours the brave.

You would see, from the Newspapers, how well every thing went on in the Midland District; so I need say nothing of my second visit to Ernest Town. In the Johnstown and Eastern Districts, there was still something to be done, and nine days remained free for exertion. I knew the people were for us: I knew that several meetings had been held, and business done in some of them; but, from novelty and ignorance, it was also evident, that the Devil, the Priest of Augusta, and the Lawyers, would be too much for the people unassisted. I therefore fixed upon measures for the occasion, and succeeded beyond my utmost expectation. I got under weigh with a plentiful supply of Printer's amunition, on the afternoon of the 16th inst. having along with me a trusty veteran, who had volunteered his services. Our amunition consisted of 700 large placards, bearing the record of transactions in the Midland District, together with short address, which I conceived warrantable by the damnable outrages at Coza-

well, and elsewhere. Besides these I had as many small hand-bills of invitation to inhabitants of Townships, with blank spaces for the insertion of places, and times, of meeting. We reached the centre of Elizabethtown, by the 20th, and having reconnoitered on both sides, by the way, and collected some auxiliaries, the plans of [illegible] were quickly formed, the blanks filled up, and every man's duty decreed. My veteran was dispatched as far as Glengarry, [illegible] master of the Dutch language, found, that Crysler and Van Koughnett, did not lead their countrymen by the nose to surely as I had imagined: he also found that my Countrymen in Lancaster and Charlottenburgh, were getting wide awake; and, that even in Cornwall, the enemy was weak and losing ground daily.

While the Hand-bills were circulating, I made an excursion to the new Perth settlement, which I had most minutely examined twelve months ago—a settlement on which government has expended a vast deal of money, with little consideration, either for the true happiness of the people, or the ultimate object in view. On the 22d, I met the people of Kitley: on the 23d, those of Bastard, and the rear of Leeds & Lansdown: on the 24th those of Yonge, front and rear; and on the morning of the 25th was with my friends of Augusta. Here I found the following printed bill stuck up.

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MR. JONES,

MEMBER FOR THE COUNTY OF GRENVILLE. requests the good and loyal inhabitants of the Township of *Augusta*, to meet him at Mr. Isaac Hurd's Inn, in *Augusta*, at NINE o'clock, in the morning of THURSDAY next, at which time and place he pledges himself to offer good reasons for not signing the proposed *Petition* of MR. GOURLAY, to the *PRINCE REGENT*.

Augusta, June 23, 1819.

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The people here listened to me for nearly three hours, with much attention, and I had the satisfaction to think that the great majority of them were well satisfied. Mr. Jones followed me in speaking and reading a Petition to the Assembly of Upper Canada; but I heard no good reasons given against ours. You must remember how much I pressed every one to join me in petitioning the Assembly *while it was sitting*; but, now, we know not when it is to sit. I told the people of Augusta that they might safely sign both petitions;—that ours might have a reply from England in 4 or 5 months, while that from Mr. Jones was not likely to be heard, even in Upper Canada, for twice that period.

My time being expired, I had to hurry off for Johnstown, having a promise from some of the people that they would go on with our business. The Lawyer and Priest however occupied the people's attention with signing the Petition to the Assembly, &c. till the meeting gradually dispersed without taking measures

according to our recommendations; and I was told that many who were most zealous in getting signatures to Mr. Jones's petition, stuffed with grievances, were those who had most loudly vociferated against that to the Prince Regent, on the plea, that, *there were no grievances to redress!!*

At Johnstown a new scene was exhibited. I had just entered the Inn Yard, and was watering my horse with a bucket by the well, when a person accosted me from behind, and pushing forward one of the large placards, asked me if I was the author of it, which I immediately acknowledged. Before I could get rid of the bucket, several blows were made at me with a stick, and on turning round, I found myself in the midst of about half a dozen people struggling on all sides. Getting out of the riot as quickly as possible, and, strange to say, without hurt, I called upon those who might know the characters engaged (for, totally ignorant of all present. I could not distinguish friends from foes) to endeavour to keep the peace, but in vain. The fighting party tumbled about, got into the house, continued some time in the hall, and finally, in one of the rooms. I was informed that the person who had first struck me was Duncan Fraser, justice of the *Peace*, and I was most happy to observe that though he, and those in his party, were totally insensible of the outrage against the law and decency, that the mass of the people could behave like men, and breathed true British sentiments. "If there is any thing wrong," said they "have not we the law to decide?"—"come let the man speak for himself"—"let us hear what he has to say," and so forth; in compliance with which we got into a shady place, and I began, as usual, to explain upon what errand I had come. But a few words had been said, when, a person assailed us with shocking language from one of the upper windows of the Inn. He seemed pale and dishevelled, bearing the bloody stains of battle on his face, and, was announced to me as the aforesaid justice of the Peace. One of his valiant supporters, James M'Donell, half pay officer, was also pointed out to me in the crowd, bearing conspicuous signs of having been paid for his violence, by the hand of violence. The horrid abuse, which these two people and two or three more of the same name, continued to pour forth, rendered it impossible for me to be well heard, so the meeting moved off to a little distance, and I proceeded to read and explain.—After a short time we were again assailed with the foul language of the Magistrate and his party; but I was determined to go on, as the majority of the people seemed anxious to be acquainted with the business. The Justice of the *Peace* finding his lungs too weak to stop our proceedings, had now recourse to another expedient.—He went off, swore that he believed me to be a seditious person, and found a fellow magistrate so weak as to order me to be arrested on such a charge.

The simplest man in the Province will see the absurdity of such a warrant.—Were we subject to arrest, whenever any blackguard

or foot declared his opinion to be so and so, where would be the freedom of British subjects? Not a soul was here present to join me in giving bail, and it might have happened that an imprisonment of some months, prior to trial, might have been my fate: 3000 pounds was demanded by the Worshipful Mr. Fraser; but his brother Magistrate condescended to let me free upon the offer of 500 pounds. On my departure for Brockville jail, under charge of the Constable, I was about to mount my horse; but no, Squire Fraser must have me go in the Constable's waggon for degradation: this punishment however, was remitted by the other gentler administrator of the law; so I rode pleasantly up to Prescott, in company with two gentlemen of that place, and proceeded with the constable, now on horseback, towards Brockville. I had gone little more than half way, when two persons, to whom I was known at the Augusta meetings, very handsomely offered to join in bail. A magistrate lived hard by:—the bail was at once received; and, the assault at Johnstown being sworn to, the constable was sent back, charged to arrest Duncan Fraser, Esq. and bring him before justice for his deeds. In fact, I have now a good action against the two magistrates of Johnstown:—as Cromwell said, "the Lord hath delivered them into our hands;" and I repeat, that, however great may be the evil consequences to me personally, the public will reap infinite advantage from the agitation of such questions. In the face of law prosecutions, I cannot be so frank as I would wish, but when necessity no longer confines my declarations, I shall be as liberal as frank in making them.—Last December, there was sent to me at Queenston, a paper, in answer to my agricultural queries, and to the 31st it was said, that one of the greatest causes which retard the improvement of Upper Canada was "a parcel of drunken Magistrates." Since I came below Lake Ontario, I have too often had occasion to reflect on this, and, the dreadful consequences which result from it. The word "drunken" does not characterize some of the men in office sufficiently—"ignorant"—"capricious"—"revengeful"—"desperately wicked," are expressions which might each, and, in some cases, all, be applied. It is easy to account for the fact. In a country where all goes by favour, the froth will invariably get to the top; and here it will tumble and toss in the levity of exaltation, or overflow on the fire that sublimes it. Arbitrary power, exercised by the great, will spur up its exercise in the little: redress of wrongs, being hard to come at, before a bench of selfish, regardless Magistrates, will cease to be much sought after, while submission and dread will be the only policy of peaceable dispositions. In those quarters of the country, where books and Newspapers cannot find their way, and the public mind has become dead by ignorance, the tyranny of men in power, will naturally reach to most disgusting heights, and the slavish habits of the people will proportionally sink down. In my first Address to the Resident Land Owners of Upper Canada, I said that the des-

ert would be better inhabited by the Beaver and the Bear, than by men, in certain circumstances. Even then I had marked the humiliation of our kind, in some parts of Upper Canada, and discovered its cause: now my greater experience confirms the truth of my first impressions: Yes, certainly, the Beaver and the Bear are more worthy than degraded man; and so it has been judged; —for him, there is a hell,—for them, only eternal sleep.—How quickly could a happy change be effected under well administered laws! What a wonderful change might be brought about in this Province, could the combined virtue of the people rise up and insist that those only should be trusted with power, who are qualified to wield it for good!

On the 26th inst. I had appointed to meet the people at Mr. Dayton's, two miles back of Brockville in Elizabethtown, and, here too, I found a printed bill stuck up, as at Augusta, of which the following is a copy:

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*The Good and Loyal Inhabitants of the Township of*
*ELIZABETHTOWN.*

Are requested to assemble at the house of Abraham Dayton, on Friday next, the 26th inst. at twelve o'clock, for the purpose of taking into consideration the state of the public affairs of the Province, when a plan will be submitted for the redress and removal of any grievances which may exist, far more likely to ensure success than the measures proposed and recommended by Mr. GOURLAY.

Elizabethtown, June 22, 1818.

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I must observe that a very numerous meeting had assembled at this place on the 6th June, but had been disturbed by the clamour of Brockville lawyers, and of a Magistrate who stripped, or was about to strip, to settle matters by the ancient process of trial by battle.—The knowledge of this, and my experience, the preceding day at Augusta, putting me on my guard, I was prepared for the worst. After having spoken to the people, whose conduct was highly praise worthy, Col. Sherwood, a lawyer of Brockville, and holder of several Government offices, made a speech. I had allowed him and others to question me on what I said, as I went along; and several useful truths were thereby calmly confirmed: in return, I naturally expected the same privilege, but with difficulty could obtain my wish. Col. Sherwood endeavoured to impress upon the minds of the people that their constitutional mode of proceeding only lay through their Representatives in Assembly, and that a Petition should go through them to the Prince, a fancy which would absolutely be laughed at in England, and which has lately been trumped up here, chiefly to support the interest and character of a few *petted* Members of Assembly.

I maintained that no petition of the people ever went through Parliament to the Prince, and challenged Col. Sherwood to give a single instance in point.—I maintained that the people of Eng-

had petitioned the King, the Lords, or the Commons, just as they thought fit,—that the people of Canada might do the same; and that, in the Bill of Rights, no provision was made for the people petitioning Parliament, while it was expressly stipulated that they should ever enjoy the right of petitioning the King. These indeed are the identical words of the Act, called the Bill of Rights. ARTICLE 5th, "*That it is the Right of the subjects to petition the King, and all commitments and prosecutions for such petitioning are illegal.*" As to the right of petitioning Parliament, though undoubted, not a word is said in the Bill of Rights: it is a right founded on custom and reason, and exercised almost every day during the sitting of Parliament, as the right of petitioning the King is practised every day of the year. That, Colonel Sherwood, a lawyer, should be ignorant of such matters, or, if not ignorant, should wish to hide the truth, is lamentable. As there could be no hope of getting any good by arguing with such a lawyer, or any other person of the kind, & as two meetings had been advertised to be held, for different purposes, at the same place, I called those, who wished to join our cause, to retire with me, and go through the business without further interruption; and, the great majority declared for us. The lawyers were left to proceed by themselves in peace; and, I afterwards heard, that they had gained 17 signatures for their petition to the Assembly.

The people of Elizabethtown having chosen their Representative and other officers, a general meeting of Township Representatives was immediately held; and, every thing was settled beyond my best hopes.

On the 27th I returned to Kingston by the Steam Boat from Brockville; and my mind, at rest from care and fatigue, had the fullest enjoyment of the delightful sail. What are the pleasures of sight without reflection? The poor Indian who paddles his canoe on the waters of the St. Lawrence, thinks not for what it was made to flow, or how the God of nature had designed it to tempt into activity the latent faculties of man,—to be a bond of union to the world. Seldom do I look on this noble river without feeling my religion increased, my ideas in every way expanded, and the end of my life clearly illustrated. The Sun, in his brightness and regular returns, leads us to adore the God of never-failing love and order; but, the mighty streams of the earth, and the wide-spreading ocean which receives them, speak more nearly to the practice of our present existence—tell us, that social intercourse with our remotest fellow creatures is a duty, and universal benevolence the ultimate design of Providence.

The voyage from Brockville to Kingston affords exquisite delight, even now, to the lover of picturesque scenery. The Islands of every shape—rocky and tame—countless in their watery labyrinths, present variety infinite: every position has its new objects, or its altered forms: enjoyment cloys not for a moment; reflection is ever kept awake; yet, was the intention of nature

completed—was the hand and genius of man exerted, to the full, in this rough-hewn paradise, how much more noble and extended would be the range of blissful sentiment!

And, why should we not anticipate such enlargement?—why should we not study and promote the means by which it may be realized? Look at those huge and ghastly skeletons—those gloomy hulks in Kingston dockyard:—look at that gay fortress which crowns the neighbouring height, extorting admiration of beauty, though utility has no place in our thoughts,—which warms the bosom with proud reflections of what the energy of man may accomplish. Millions were expended on these; and, whence came the millions?—from the skill and industry of the British people, and from a confidence of what may yet be obtained from them, by oppressive taxation. But for what ends have such sums been expended?—for the pride of British rule, and its fancied security. Is it virtuous? will it be lasting? can it be cheaply upheld?—Alas! such pride, is, but the pride of power—such security, but the hazard of war. The best, and only lasting, security of Canada, and the present dominion over it, must rest in a dense population, and, in the hearts of a free and prosperous race of men. Let but half the sum be borrowed which was expended to repel the Invaders of this Province, (and it can be any day borrowed in England on Government securities):—let one half of this sum be laid out on the St. Lawrence navigation, while the other half is applied to facilitate the general improvement of the country;—then, look forward, ten, or twenty, or thirty years, and say, whether, at such periods, the security of British dominion is not encreased,—whether Canada, any longer, invites a conqueror; or, finally, whether her advanced prosperity does not extinguish every hope, and every idea, of invasion and conquest.

Money, expended in building ships of war and raising fortresses, is sunk for ever, bearing no interest: money judiciously applied to spur on agricultural improvements and to quicken commercial transactions, cannot fail of a profitable return; and, would the British Government only give the necessary aid to Canada—only give, this, her foster child, a liberal credit in account, not only would the venture be safe, but such generous treatment would ensure her dominion, for ages to come, over millions of grateful hearts.

Fondly trusting that such rational measures may yet be adopted, and such a kindly alliance fostered between Britain and her Colonies, I gave loose to the pleasures of imagination on my voyage from Brockville to Kingston. I saw the Islands and the mainland shores cleared of their woods, but such only as use and ornament required: I saw bounteous fields waving with the yellow harvest: I saw, in the midst of these fields, the substantial buildings of the farmer, nothing envying the villa of the man of ease and refinement, which smiles from the neighbouring grove, or exults over the beauties of its widely surrounding lawn: I now

pressed to enjoy the vista laid open by the hand of taste and reflection; and now admired the obelisk, crowning, gracefully, this eminence, whose nature, for ages, had taught economy—without she had invited embellishment, and manifested her desire for the extension of the art enjoyment,—even there, where the feverish pines still cling to the bare rock, or anchor their roots in its highest clefts, that their green fronds may unnerely wave in the wind, and borrow nourishment from the passing air.—Mem, I thought, all is improved,—every lesson is learned,—every advantage is taken:—the mind, of man, has been every where treading over brooding nature; and, his active hand has every where been stretched out. She probed the earth that he might be tempted to explore; —she tore asunder those primitive rocks, that he might discover their marbles and their richest ores, to polish and mould into a thousand forms. The villages, in the distance, marked, but by the ascending smoke, or the glittering of their spires, contain thousands of active beings, striving to excel,—assistance to provide, even nature herself, in fitful adaptation and elegant display.—These waters, how full of life!—these innumerable vessels, whither do they fly!—for our remotest lakes, or the still more distant coasts of the ocean?—for Albion?—for Egypt?—for India?

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*On board the Steam Boat Frontenac, bound for York, July 2d, 1818.*

The pleasures of imagination must now give place to the record of human weakness, and the most horrid realities. It shall be faithful; and some consolation may be gathered from reflection when the mind is composed.

On my arrival at Kingston, I found last week's Gazette contained two letters; one to the Editor *about* me, signed John Macaulay; the other addressed *to* me, by Daniel Hagerman. These letters would have been far below notice, but for their relation to serious matters. I shall speak of them, singly, and, in course, as they were perused. It will be remembered, that, in the former part of this communication, which appeared in the Kingston Gazette, of 16th June, I said, "*the moment that any letter or packet is put into the Post Office, that moment it becomes the property of him to whom it is addressed; and neither the first owner nor the master of the Office, has the smallest right to use liberties with it.—Nearly two months ago, I had private information that Mr. Macaulay had been taking unwarrantable liberties in this way.*" I further said, "*I should commence an amicable suit against the master of the Kingston post office.*" Because I thus stated my *information* that Mr. Macaulay "had been taking unwarrantable liberties"—because my opinion was different from that of Mr. Macaulay on a very important public question, to determine which I frankly and in the best humour, said, that I would commence an *amicable* suit against him, therefore Mr. Macaulay says, "I was greatly surprized to find that I had incurred the *displeasure* of Mr.

Gourlay, because in the discharge of my duty I had returned from the post office a packet which had been addressed to him by Mr. Daniel Hagerman: censure, so unprovoked, I cannot suffer to pass without comment."

We must let *amicable displeasure* settle matters with *censure so unprovoked*, and stick to the main question of the Post Master's duty. Proving his opinion on this subject, Mr. Macaulay speaks of my "characteristic assurance," of my being "betrayed by a malevolent disposition, into inaccuracy or inconsistency" of my "mere dictum however dogmatically advanced:"—in the face of my knowledge of the *law*, he "ventures to say, that any person writing a letter is warranted in using the liberty of withdrawing it, after having lodged it in a Post Office;" and, he further avers, "that the master of every Office, is in duty bound to return it, provided, the person demanding it can prove satisfactorily, that he is the writer."—Mr. Macaulay's impertinencies have been very properly corrected by a person signing himself Switch.—What remains for me, therefore, is briefly to state a few facts,—to quote an authority, which one would suppose equal to that of the Master of Kingston Post Office; and to make a few reflections on the subject.

I have first then to say, that I have seen a printed notification stuck up in the Post Office window in England, expressly declaring the law as I have recorded it; and I have applied for a letter written and put in by myself, and could not, with the most satisfactory proof of this, have it withdrawn: further, the law of England has decreed, that every Post Master shall take the following oath:—

"I, A. B. do swear, that I will not wittingly, willingly, or "knowingly, open, detain, or delay; or cause, procure, permit, "or suffer to be opened, detained, or delayed, any letter or let-"ters, packet or packets, which shall come into my hands, pow-"er, or custody, by reason of my employment in, or relating to "the Post Office; except *by the consent of the person or persons "to whom the same is or shall be directed*, or by an express war-"rant in writing, under the hand of one of the principle Secreta-"ries of State for that purpose; or, except in such cases where "the party or parties, to whom such letter or letters, packet or "packets, shall be directed, or who is or are hereby chargeable "with the payment of the port or ports thereof, shall refuse or neg-"lect to pay the same; and, except such letters or packets as "shall be returned for want of true directions, or, when the party "or parties to whom the same is or shall be directed, cannot be "found; and, that I will not in any way embezzle any such letter "or letters, packet or packets, as aforesaid." The statute which decrees that every Master of a Post Office shall take this Oath, also fixes a penalty of £20, for every offence against it, together with full costs of suit, to be paid to any one who sues for the same; and, "over and above such penalty, every offender, shall be for "ever incapable of having, using, exercising or enjoying, any of-"fice, trust, or employment, in, or relating to the Post Office."

This law, over which the Provincial legislature has no controul, has been in force for upwards of a hundred years; and, every body who has been in England, will acknowledge the excellence of Post Office management there. The mismangement, in Canada, on the contrary, was once grievous; and, though it is allowed, that Mr. Sutherland, the present Post Master General, has done much to correct abuses, still there is much to be complained of. The oath, which I have above quoted, is not generally, if at all, administered in Upper Canada. How does this happen? The question is important, and, if Mr. Sutherland is at liberty to answer it, I trust he will satisfy the public, before whom it is put, by public explanation. If he is not at liberty, this, and the whole system of Post Office management, should appear the more worthy of investigation, when a Commission goes home to confer with the supreme government. The supreme government has all along retained a controul over the American Colonial Post Offices; but, it was surely never meant that the Executive should act without regard to the common law of the Empire; indeed, it could serve no good purpose, in Colonial policy, to dispense with an oath, so essential as that quoted, to bind individuals to their duty; it could never be meant, that by such laxity, the public were to be wantonly exposed to the caprices of a thing so utterly devoid of sense and discretion, as John Macaulay, of Kingston, pupil of the Reverend Dr. Strachan.

It was my intention to have entered an action against Mr. Macaulay, at next Kingston Assizes, as the most solemn way of bringing the question to issue; but, I have been just informed by a gentleman of the law, on board, that the opportunity will be lost this season, unless I send an express from York, to Kingston, within two or three days from this date, which I shall not do. The action, so far as it regards the damages to me, will be equally good upon another occasion; and, in the mean time, I trust, there is sufficient evidence produced, to induce the Post Master General, to think seriously of supplanting Mr. Macaulay, in an office where discretion and good faith are so very requisite. When I get to Queenston, I shall be able to lay my hands on a few papers, which will still further expose the unwarrantable liberties of the post master.

*Niagara, July 28th, 1818.*

In the Kingston Gazette, of 13th January last, I had a letter inserted, desiring gentlemen below Lake Ontario, to address for me, at *the Post Office, Kingston*. The Honorable Thomas Clark, in a letter, dated, York, Feb. 21, 1818, wrote to me, "there are, I understand, many reports for you in the Post Office at Kingston"; and, this I noticed in my letter, which appeared in the Niagara Spectator, of the 12th March. On the 18th day of March, I received a letter from Mr. Macaulay, of which the following is a copy.

Post-Office, Kingston, 2d March, 1818.

SIR,

*I beg leave to inform you, that I have in this Office, three reports of Townships addressed to you and awaiting your arrival at this place. If you have altered your intention of coming to Kingston, you will please inform me where I am to direct the reports and oblige, Sir,*

*Your obedient servant,*

*JOHN MACAULAY.*

*Mr. Robert Gourlay.*

I wrote in reply, as follows.

*Niagara, 18th March, 1818.*

SIR,

*I thank you for your intelligence as to the Reports, and your offer to forward them. I still shall be at Kingston, and then shall call for them at the Post Office. It will oblige me, if you will hand the inclosed to the Editor of the Kingston Gazette.*

*ROBERT GOURLAY.*

*Mr. John Macaulay, Post Office, Kingston.*

In conformity with my intention of passing through Kingston, on my way to England, I had written to a friend in the United States, to address a letter, with certain required information, to lay for me at the Post-Office, Kingston. This letter bore upon it the post-mark of the town whence it was sent, signifying its departure, viz. 16 January, and must have been a month or more at Kingston, prior to Mr. Macaulay's advice to me of the 2d March. Notwithstanding my assuring him, that I was still to be at Kingston, Mr. Macaulay forwarded this letter to me at Queenston, with the Kingston departure mark of 6th April. Nothing but the state of the weather, and badness of roads, had prevented my [illegible] Queenston, on my way to England, up to the 2d of April. [illegible] so, I might have missed the letter which I expected [illegible] Kingston; and, the disappointment would have been great, for it contained directions as to my travelling on to New-York, and the addresses of many individuals, whom my friend was so good as to have prepared for my reception by the way. The additional postage [illegible] had to pay for this letter, at Queenston, may also be mentioned, though a consideration of no comparative consequence. In winding up this detail, I shall give the copy of a note which I wrote to Mr. Macaulay, a few days after my arrival in Kingston.

*Walker's Hotel, 21st May, 1818.*

SIR,

*Being now in Kingston, I have to request, that you will give the Bearer, the three Township Reports, which you informed me, by letter, addressed to me at Queenston, had been lodged with you, as Master of the Post Office here. I am, your's, &c.*

*ROBERT GOURLAY.*

*To Mr. Macaulay, Post Office, Kingston.*

This note was delivered by Mr. Peter Hamilton, of Queenston, who brought me, from the Post Office, two packets, containing Township Reports, and a verbal message, that the third had been returned to Mr. Hagerman. Not a word was said of that which I heard had been withdrawn by Colonel Stone; and, whether any besides that one had been withdrawn, from the "many" spoken of by Mr. Cook, must rest with the discretion of the Post Master to disclose.

To argue with a man, who prates about the "practice throughout the wide extent of the British Empire," while he knows, absolutely, nothing of that within the narrow sphere of his own department, would be stooping low indeed. I shall only call the attention of the public, to the extreme injustice done me in the single case before us, by a departure from the rule laid down by the British statute. To elucidate this, the suffering one packet to be withdrawn, is as good as if such liberty had been taken with a hundred.

When I first resolved to go home, by way of Kingston, I had no object whatever, but to afford the people below Lake Ontario, the latest chance of communicating with me; and, I repeat, that it was for their interest much more than mine, that I did so. I repeat, that although I felt great satisfaction in doing equal duty to the whole Province, and should have had great pleasure in finding the inhabitants repose confidence in me, still it was, in other respects, matter of comfort, that every Township did not send me a Report. In that case I should have been overwhelmed with repetitions, which could not have been left unpublished, without giving offence, while my main design would only have been clogged by them. Now, if to do equal duty to the people of this Province, I was to go 150 miles out of my way:—if, reposing confidence in the excellence of our laws, I was assured that letters and packets would be in safe keeping at Kingston Post Office: how was it to shock my feelings, when I came to know, that, not only Strachan, the schoolmaster, had been from York, to Cornwall, endeavoring to blast public confidence in me;—not only, that his pupil Bethune, was flying in the face of common sense, to breed distrust of my principles; but, that this other pupil of the Post Office, was giving away my property, even that which he had assured me was "waiting my arrival." Without any obligation to hold the packets safe for me, as Post Master, did not his own assurance, by letter, establish such an obligation? The single packet, withdrawn by Hagerman, was, in one sense, of no value; in another, it was invaluable. Under circumstances, the smaller the number of Reports sent me to the Post Office, the more valuable they became to me; not intrinsically indeed; but, as pledges, that notwithstanding every evil influence, to run down my character, still there were some people, so generous as to believe me honest and sincere.

Before closing this subject, I shall again say, that I trust it will not escape the notice of the Post Master General. I have brought it forward, now, only urged by the extreme folly of the person in fault; but, it should not have been forgotten at home; and, there,

I can still further set forth, the wretched state of Post Office management in this Province. In November last I put into the Post Office of Niagara a parcel of letters for the Western District, and I did so attended by a witness. About 7 weeks afterwards I found occasion to make enquiry as to these letters, at the Post Offices to which they were destined, viz. Sandwich and Amherstburgh, and had the mortification to discover, that not one of them had been forwarded thither.—Than the Post Office, no establishment ought to be more nicely regulated or more narrowly watched. All commercial transactions depend upon it; and, not business alone, but the most delicate concerns of friendship, confidence and love.

We have now to turn our attention to the second letter in course, that of Hagerman, which I shall cause to be reprinted by the side of this. It seems ostensively, to have been called forth, by the short notice which I took of the writer, in the part of this communication, dated 12th June, when I said as little of him as correct narrative would admit. I had indeed been advised to take no notice of him whatever, for, said a gentleman, "the least notice will make him proud." At that time, I had been put in possession of a Circular, which I was told Hagerman had profusely distributed through Adolphustown; but of this, a copy of which I shall insert, I then despised to take account: indeed, the people of Adolphustown had sufficiently replied to it at that time.

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*(CIRCULAR.)*

*Ernest Town, 20th May, 1818.*

*SIR,*

*In consideration of the honor done me, by the Inhabitants of my native Township, in confirming the Report which I drew up for transmission to Mr. Robert Gourlay, I have thought it my duty to inform you, that in consequence of Mr. Gourlay's principles having been ascertained to be widely different from those expressed in his first address to the Inhabitants of Upper Canada; as his friends and* RELATIONS *in this country, who were acquainted with him in England, have deserted him, and publicly announced his true character; and, as Mr. Gourlay, in one of his late addresses to the Inhabitants of this country, remarked that he was glad he had not received any more reports, as they would have encumbered him too much, I did not forward to him the report of the Township of Adolphustown.—And in this measure I was actuated not only by my own opinion, but at the request of your Chairman, Mr. Fisher, and several other gentlemen of the country.*

*I feel myself also called upon, to make this communication to you, from a conscientious belief that Mr. Gourlay's object is not what we at first thought it to be, that he has imposed upon us, and, that, actuated by sinister motives, his conduct and principles tend to disturb that quiet, happiness, and security which we have hitherto enjoyed under the mild influence of indulgent laws, and the fostering care of a beloved sovereign.*

*Should the Inhabitants of the Township think proper to call a meeting*

*on some future day (and 'twould be well worth the trouble) I will with pleasure attend, and I pledge myself to advance such proofs of my assertions, as I think will tend to a conviction in the minds of every unprejudiced person, of their truth and correctness.*

*I remain, Sir,*
*Your obedient humble serv't.*

*D. HAGERMAN.*

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The Inhabitants of Adolphustown *thought proper to meet on a future day*, viz. the 6th of June, and reported

"*This meeting do disapprove of the withdrawing the Report of this "Township, dated the 5th January*, 1818, *in answer to Mr. Gourlay's "first address to the Resident Land Owners of Upper Canada.*"

If any ordinary or mild check could have put down presumption, this reply, made without my interference, in Hagerman's "*native Township*," certainly would have done so. It seems to have produced not the slightest effect. Look to the letter annexed, and tell me, if any thing of the kind ever exhibited such a combination of vulgar levity, gross falsehood, unblushing effrontery, and unfeeling assurance.

I have said above, that this letter and that of the Post Master of Kingston, would have been below notice, but, for their connection with serious concerns; and, in this respect I must beg the particular indulgence of the public, in developing, how this letter, and the conduct of its writer, became serious to me.

It must be remembered, that Hagerman the elder, was charged by the Attorney General, with a serious prosecution against me, and had boasted of having this charge, *fortnight* before my arrest, which could not possibly be true. If, however, he had the charge sent to him, by the Steam Boat which brought me to Kingston, the 18th May, and this I believe was the case, then his Brother could very well be informed of it by the 20th of that month, when I visited Ernest Town. Now, although it did not occur to me then, nor till the publication of Hagerman's letter, hereto annexed, and till much information otherwise, had reached me of the shocking character, which both the brothers bore in the country, it did then strike me, and the more I reflect on all circumstances, the more am I convinced, that from the beginning, a conspiracy was formed to blast my reputation, and to prejudice the public mind every way against me, in order that these Hagerman's, and the party in power, might be successful in bringing me to condemnation. "Yes," says the younger, in his infamous epistle, "the jaws of your lawyer, may yet quiver to your condemnation." Do these words not instantly throw light, both on the character of the men and their machinations? They are clearly expressed, as if the writer was already retained to plead against me; and no doubt, where the King was to bear the expense of prosecution, the one brother would naturally bring the other into practice, so creditable and sure of profit, especially, if they

could carry the point at issue. On my arrival at Kingston, and on reading the annexed letter, the whole view of the villanous designs against me, flashed on my mind. I found many people, disgusted, both with this letter and Macaulay's; but, nobody could feel so strongly, or see so clearly on the subject as myself. I had just finished a tour, which had convinced me, that a whole host from Kingston to Cornwall, was in arms against the cause of truth;—that lawyers and magistrates, through this whole extent, were secretly informed of Hagerman's charge from the Attorney General, had got bold in their confidence of my destruction, and were striving to hasten it by the foulest means—not by slander only, but by arrests and violence. When I had seen all this, and passed through a cloud so highly charged with combustion, was I to cower when I came to the source whence the vapours had risen, and was in near contact with the demons, who had sent them forth to pollute the air. No, certainly, I was not to fear speaking the truth, though beset by liars or assassins: I was not to dread touching the wires which could draw forth an explosion, best fitted to display to the world the true characters of men, combined for purposes the most diabolical. Before proceeding to my publication, which worked up the evil passions of these men to a suitable discharge, let us review Hagerman's writings more minutely, now that they seem worthy of notice.

The Circular is dated the 20th of May, the very day when I first saw the writer at Ernest Town. I was accompanied there by Mr. Washburn, and my only previous acquaintance, in the village, was Mr. McKay. They made me known to Dr. Baker, and several other people, who were at the tavern. All were civil to me, and I returned their civility: as to "courting the applause of the spectators by a disgusting affectation of low familiarity," it is the very invention of a malicious and lying spirit. I am the last man in the world to court applause; and, in this country, where little intercourse with mixed society engenders much petty jealousy, and what the Traveller very early discovered, a considerable proportion of "false pride," I find myself very frequently giving offence, most innocently, by an indifference to trifles, and not recognizing individuals, who, from circumstances, have become familiar with my appearance. It is known to those whom I have named, that Hagerman desired to be introduced to me as a private gentleman; but mark the audacity which now declares he came only to see me with the feelings of those who hear of a wild beast being in the neighbourhood: out of his own mouth we condemn the hypocrite. It is now pretty clear, that he neither came as a gentleman, nor one curious to see a spectacle: but, for the beastly intention of creating a brawl, for my discredit. I saw him advance in an attitude to strike a person present; I thrust myself between, and begged that he would allow me to keep the peace. When I found nothing would settle his violent strain of abuse, towards the person with whom he was quarreling, I withdrew, and endeavoured, all I could, to get others to do the same. My back, it would appear, was no sooner

forward than he took up his pen and wrote the above CIRCULAR, to the inhabitants of Adolphustown. He speaks of doing this as a duty: why did he not sooner perform his duty? The answer is plain: his motive before now was not so strong: he had not, till now, the motive of succeeding in his pleadings against me, in a Court of Justice, by previously defaming my character, and thereby biasing the judgments of jurymen. He had withdrawn the Report, under the influence of an illiberal, silly, and officious disposition, readily bending an ear to slander; but, only half confirmed in the propriety of his proceedings, see how he endeavours to blink the truth, by saying he "did not *forward* the Report," thus making himself appear only a passive agent, instead of the active one who had withdrawn the Report after he had forwarded it.—The circular exhibits a feeble attempt at various kinds of deception; altho' it is evidently too hard for Satan to kick against the pricks. He talks of the honor done him by the Inhabitants of his native Township to flatter them into a continuance of doing him honor, while the contrast, of my being detested by friends and *Relations*, may the better incline them to his side. The friends and relations meant are no doubt Clark and Dickson of placard memory. It would not suit the satanic purpose to have the truth told as to these Gentlemen—that they were acquainted with me in England by partaking, for weeks together, the friendship of my fire side,—that they received me with open arms on my arrival here,—that they pushed me to the highest pitch of contempt for the administration of public affairs in this Province,—that they would have used me as a cats-paw to work their own ends; but, when my views extended to a complete purification of evil,—when my enquiries would have searched into the conduct of Governor Gore, and brought to light even the mysteries which bound their interests with his;—then, they could desert me, and fiend-like, use every effort to bring me to discredit and shame. Such facts would not suit the petty-fogging lawyer; far less the fact, that I could defy the whole world, enemies and friends, to prove deception in my conduct, either here or at home. For all this he goes on to speak of *his* conscious belief, that I have imposed on the country, have been actuated by sinister motives; and, on that very day, when he had laboured to disturb the "quiet, happiness and security" which we might enjoy under a beloved Sovereign, he would insist, that my conduct and principles tended to disturb these. On that very day on which he had occular demonstration of the contrary,—*of* my active desire to keep the peace,—he would sit down and give vent to such abominable scandal, and pretend to have a *conscious belief* of the most audacious falsehoods.

Whoever reflects on the nauseous tenor of the CIRCULAR, which I have now exposed, will think me patient indeed, when I could hold it in my possession and dismiss its writer so easily as I did, in my communication of the 12th of June. Hasty passion, vanity, and weakness, are easily looked over; but high blown pride, design, and confirmed,—unblushing villany, it is our duty to humble and chas-

tise. How was I to do this, or what arms had I to defend myself against such men as the Hagerman's? calling one brother a blackguard was nothing: it might be said this is only your opinion.—I told what I heard as true, that another of the brothers, who had been confined for forgery, was now reported to be hanged; and, it is an unquestionable fact, that this man was actually in custody and examined for the crime of forgery at Montreal, but made his escape from justice in Canada. Do I injure any one by publishing such a report, so much as I am injured by the false publications and assertions of Hagerman, who attacked me, before I had given him the slightest provocation,—who had, with the most filthy zeal, laboured to bring me to disgrace and ruin! If the man reported to be hanged, was still alive, he had reason to thank me for openly declaring what was said of him, that he might, at once, put an end to a story so discreditable to him and his family, by publishing the truth, or by making his appearance, as any man of honor would do, to stand to the complaints preferred against him at law. If he was hanged for a crime it was right that the public should be informed of the fact; and the useful impression be made, that justice may overtake the wicked, even in their flight. Whether the man was hanged, or simply made his escape from justice, the fact should be held in remembrance by all, till truth and justice are satisfied; and, it ought to curb the haughty spirit of his relations. Before my publication came out, speaking of it to the Printer, I said that no truth should be concealed, which could humble the pride of the Hagerman's. I had, but a little while made this declaration, when the two brothers made their appearance before me, in the Printing Office. Some Eves-dropper had overlooked the proof sheet, and run to apprise them of what was coming forth. It is perfectly impossible to describe the fury which they exhibited. At one time beseeching the Printer to withdraw from the press what was preparing for it; at another threatening me and launching forth the most awful oaths and imprecations. Their argument to the Printer, was, that they had a mother and sisters whose feelings would be injured. I told the Printers, that I had not only a mother and sisters, but a wife and children, to whom my character was dear,—that he had admitted into his paper every species of slander against my character; and, that since he had published such falsehoods, which might go home to England, he should not flinch from doing his duty in publishing truth. Seeing that neither imprecations nor threats could succeed, the younger Hagerman, came up to me, and said, "Mr. Gourlay, let me entreat you, in mildness, to withdraw your publication." "Sir, said I, since you entreat me, in mildness, I shall make you this offer,—insert in this day's newspaper, an apology for your letter to me, which appeared in the last Gazette, and, the article you complain of, shall be instantly withdrawn." Hagerman stepped backwards,—swore a dreadful oath, and making shew of sawing across his shoulder with his hand, declared, that he would rather cut off his arm than make apology.

After the paper was published, a gentleman called upon me at

Walker's Hotel, and advised me to arm myself, in the event of going out, as Hagerman would attack me. I replied, that I certainly should not; that I always trusted to the laws of the land for protection. After dinner, I walked out, and was arm in arm, with three or four others, when we heard some one bawling behind us. On turning round, I saw the elder Hagerman, running furiously towards us, with a large loaded whip. I separated from the rest and stood the assault. I had before resolved on my conduct, viz. if possible only to defend myself; and, I believe, this resolution was strictly adhered to. What I felt, on the occasion, more severe than the blows, was, that not a single person seemed to care for my situation, after the ruffian struck at me for a considerable time, with the heavy end of his whip; and seemed every way bent on committing murder.* He was in phrensy, and under its influence I found it impossible to secure him, though some of his own friends, afraid, I presume, of a fatal catastrophe, at last interfered and had him taken off.

I have seen more of the world than most men,—I have lived months together in London, where but for good laws strictly enforced, and a proper spirit in the people, fostered under these laws, wickedness would soon reign paramount. In the most blackguard alley of that great metropolis, I am very sure, that, in 19 cases out of 20, no man, unarmed, could be attacked by another, as I was, without getting instant aid from the Byestanders, "fair play is a jewel," would there be the instant word; and though fair fighting might be witnessed, an unequal match never would be tolerated, as it was in broad day light in the street of Kingston, Upper Canada. I was afterwards told, that Hagerman said he chose the spot of his assault, being in front of a Magistrates house; and that the Magistrate witnessed the scene with indifference.

It may be imagined, that such an affair would soon draw together a mob, and in this mob, Hagerman was let loose to return repeatedly back to me, and brandish the heavy end of his whip in my face.—This provocation and the total want of feeling which seemed to prevail, at last overcame my best resolutions, and, I said, that he dared not strike me, if I was equally armed. A whip was handed me, and I advanced to challenge him, which was no sooner done, than I was struck, and a contest ensued. For good twenty-five years, I had not engaged in battle, and to be sure on this occasion, I shewed a sad want of practice, tho' at School, I had ranked as an adept. I took no care to bundle up the lash of the whip:—my antagonist observed this, and seizing hold, had an unfair opportunity of striking me repeatedly on the head. His blows only helped to awaken me to the strange occasion, and I began to feel confident, that bottom,

*I should not forget to say that two of the Gentlemen who were in company with me, when attacked, seemed to express afterwards, their sorrow at not having interfered; and I am sure it was not from want of principle that they did not. The fact is, habit is a great ruler among men; and in a Town like Kingston where brawls may often occur, without due reprobation and punishment of aggressors, virtuous minds may become less easily shocked with such scenes.

with every unpardonable, would prevail over fury. Now, however, the magistrate, who, I was told, had for some time, quietly stood aloof, seized me by the arm and required of me to keep the peace. He no sooner did this than a gentleman called out, that Hagarman was the aggressor, and required the magistrate to take his deposition, that the offender should be arrested; but, this the magistrate refused to do; and, I had afterwards, to order an arrest and prosecution, on my own oath. To put this on record is not pleasant to me. Of all things, I have a horror at street brawls, and never before, since grown to manhood, was I a party in one; but, if it will add to the proofs of the abandoned state of government and morals in this Province, so that steps may be taken to introduce a state of things more worthy of a civilized age, neither shall I grudge my shame nor my blood.

Having closed my journal of a journey undertaken to promote the virtuous designs, of a very large body of the respectable inhabitants of Niagara District, I only wish, that up to the present date, nothing more need be said. Fools however, seem to spring up without end under the present system of corruption in Upper Canada. You would see from the published transactions of "the Convention of Friends to Enquiry," that Mr. Robert Kerr's conduct had been disapproved of, and that his constituents were to be advised to choose another Representative in his room for the District of Newcastle.—This was a mild mode of proceeding with him, adopted out of respect to his brother, our worthy secretary. To me it appeared too mild, and I should think every member of the Convention will be of the same opinion, now, that he has had the effrontery to publish the trash which appeared in the last Spectator. Some people would have me reply to this; but, what good would it do?—Every man of sense must perceive the deceit, and be shocked with such a display of callous depravity; neither could the feelings of the young man himself be touched while he is bolstered up in his conceit, by unprincipled people in power, who, no doubt, have manufactured the principal part of what he has published. He endeavoured, by every means, to pick a quarrel with me, at York, and even proceeded to gross insult in the street, that I might be provoked to strike him. I dispised him, and let him rave as I would do any blackguard scavenger. So far as concerns myself, I shall correct some of his misstatements. He had pledged himself to prove some insinuations which he had thrown out against my character, in a letter which appeared in the Upper Canada Gazette, Spectator, &c. This he pledged himself to do on the 6th of July; and, that such a personal affair should not interrupt the business of the meeting, I required his bringing it forward at the commencement, which he refused, till next day, when he insulted the meeting with the stuff now published. I did not move, as he says, that he "should be expunged from the meeting." Mr. Hamilton moved his expulsion, and was seconded by Mr. Coleman. Unfortunately this was not directly carried for the reason above mentioned.

When a motion of adjournment was proposed the first day of meeting, I begged of Gentlemen, as it would not interrupt business, to allow me to show them, and read over, a handbill, printed in England, to prove that the cause of the poor of that country, had long been my theme there, and was an object which I had repeatedly mentioned in my publications in Canada, as a spur to my exertions here,—an object far superior to the selfish considerations, which this low minded fellow has attached to my exertions. Could indeed the redundant population of England find a liberal vent to Canada, and at this I aim, no scheme, ever proposed in the world, could boast of such abundant comfort to humanity. I speak it with confidence; and, had any one as clear conceptions on the subject as I have, he would be cold hearted indeed, if he did not do his utmost to remove obstructions to its completion. Since the handbill has been mentioned, I shall give it to be printed in the Spectator next week. It contains proposals drawn up by me, after sixteen years reflection on the state of pauperism in England; and, I trust it will excite the attention of philanthropists over the wide extent of America, although the landed interest of England, from ill grounded and illiberal fears, are jealous of the scheme proposed. Should it attract attention and create interest on this side of the Atlantic, I shall publish here, an edition of four tracts on the poor laws of England, of which I have a copy; and, from which the petition contained in the hand-bill is an extract. It matters not a farthing to me, whether the abuses and bad policy which weigh down this Province, be corrected through Parliament, through a Convention, or Governor, provided they are corrected, and an unbounded extent of British soil be made equal to the wants of millions of British subjects who cannot, at home, find a spot wherein to erect a cottage for independent residence. As Mr. Robert Kerr's letter to the Inhabitants of Newcastle District, appeared in the Upper Canada Gazette, I sent an extract of the Resolution of the Convention, on that subject, to be published in that newspaper, as a reply. The Editor gave me reason to believe this should appear in his next paper, but two have since been published without this article. That some of the people in power, at York, were the writers of what Mr. Robert Kerr, has published under the head "impropriety and evil tendancy" I have not the least doubt; but, their partiality towards him, and the extreme injustice of which they can be guilty of to me, is demonstrated by the fact mentioned. No Government paper, in London, would dare to insert a gross libel against an individual, and refuse giving place to a reply couched in decorous and becoming language; but, so it is in Canada,—the public money is employed to support a vehicle, which gives currency to slander and lies, while truth is trodden under foot, and discretion held at naught.

While speaking of the influence of power over the press in Canada, I shall give another still more extraordinary instance. It will be remembered, that I gave Mr. Miles, the Editor of the Kingston Gazette, credit for his independent spirit, and said, what he has

self assured me was true, that the sale of his paper had greatly increased since his publication of my writings, &c. My back was no sooner turned upon Kingston, than this man inserted in his newspaper, an article, as if written by himself, wherein, after haranguing on the difficulty which an Editor of a newspapers, has to contend with, amidst the clashing of political parties, he apologizes for his insertion of what I wrote concerning the Hagerman's, and says, " the personalities there expressed could only spring from base " principles, and a cold, unfeeling heart, regardless of the pain which " might thereby be given to innocent and unoffending individuals— " besides, there is good reason to believe, that the assertion there " contained, is nothing else but a vindictive calumny, founded upon " gross misrepresentation."

It must be remembered, that I was arrested at Kingston, on the oath of Mr. Miles, which proved, that I had given him, for publication, the pamphlet printed here, and sent all over the Provinces, by the Committee of this District. Mr. Miles was under no other obligation to give this oath, than any Storekeeper, to swear to any article of sale entered in his invoice; and, a pretty job it would be, if Storekeepers, or others, were to submit, humbly, to requests of this nature. About an hour before my arrest, Mr. Stephen Miles came into the house where I was at dinner; and, with a smile on his countenance, crossed the room, to shake hands with me. I was a little surprised at the time, with such an advance; and his conduct, after it came out, that he had, by his oath, brought me to arrest, excited curious surmises in many. The truth is now out: he is a mere sycophant, ready, at any call, to bend to power, for pay or for threats. When at York, I had intelligence, by letter, that a person of the name of Pringle, who holds a government place, at Kingston, had compelled Miles, to put the article above quoted from, into his paper. I expected that the man's own conscience, after reflection, or public reproach, would induce him, to apologize, in a future paper, for what he had done; but, no: I have, within these few days, received from him a letter with these words:—" *The papers I forward as you desired. You will perceive that I have given you a little rub,* " *in my last Gazette: you must recollect the liberty you gave me on* " *your departure,*" and in a Postscript, he says, " *lash me gently, for* " *I have enough of it already.*" Did ever Judas go to such lengths? Mr. Miles is outwardly a religious man: at preaching and prayer meetings, he is a constant attendant. I myself sat with him in the Methodist meeting, the last Sunday I was in Kingston; but, *see* now the fruits of the tree—see the charity, which exposes me to the world, as a man of " *base principles, and of a cold, unfeeling heart*"—think of Mr. Miles, pointing to an assertion, as if by me made, containing " nothing else but a vindictive calumny," while I only said, *I was told*, and that, *it was reported*, so and so. *Mr. Miles himself*, told me that he was present at Montreal, when Hagerman, was under examination for forgery!!!

Worthy friends of Niagara District! who had such confidence

to me as to begin a work, with my advice, which has since reached the noble height of bringing together respectable men, from every quarter where the light of reason has spread, to consult for the welfare of this noble Province, which might give refuge to millions of the destitute, flinch not from your duty—adhere to the principles you have adopted, and support the truth. It is foreign to this soil; but if my brother farmers will plant and water it, most gloriously will it thrive, to overshadow those damnable influences which now so luxuriantly grow up.

Under such a system of corruption as now prevails, and in such a place as Kingston, overwhelmed with the influences of power, innocence itself cannot be safe. I go thither to take my trial next week. I wish you to think little of the consequences, for they will neither daunt nor disturb me. I only wish the FRIENDS TO ENQUIRY may persevere; and, in time, if they continue acting as sincere honest men ought to do, Hell itself shall not prevail against them.

ROBERT GOURLAY.

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*To the Editor of the Kingston Gazette.*

SIR—On looking over your last number, I was greately surprised to find that I had incurred the displeasure of Mr. Gourlay, because, in the discharge of my duty, I had returned from the Post Office, a packet which had been addressed to him, by Mr. Daniel Hagerman. Censure so unprovoked I cannot suffer to pass without comment, since silence might be construed into acquiesence in its justice.

Mr. Gourlay asserts that "the moment any letter or packet is put into a Post Office, that moment it becomes the property of him to whom it is addressed, and that neither the first owner, nor the master of the office has the smallest right to use liberties with it." This assertion, though made with his charpcteristic assurance, is nevertheless erroneous, if by the "right to use liberties," he meant the privilege of the writer to withdraw his letter. But this is not the only instance, which might be quoted from Mr. Gourlay's newspaper effusions, wherein he is betrayed by a malevolent disposition, into inaccuracy, or inconsistency, and it appears needful to remind him that something more is required for the establishment of his principles by the "Musquetoes" of Canada, than his mere dictum, however dogmatically advanced. Although he affirms that he knows the *law*, he compels me to contradict him without much ceremony, and to deny the exactness of his definition. I venture to say that any person writing a letter is *warranted in using the liberty* of withdrawing it, after having lodged it in the Post Office; and I further aver that the Master of every office is in duty bound to return it, provided the person demanding it can prove satisfactorily that he is the writer. Perhaps in the populous towns

of Europe, and in those places, where Mr. Gourlay may have resided, obstacles are sometimes opposed to the execution of this rule by the difficulty of identifying the writer, and by the immense numbers of letters which are daily received and despatched; still such is the settled rule of practice throughout the wide extent of the British Empire. This indeed must be too well known to require demonstration, and it would be a waste of time to enlarge on the manifold inconveniences which would result(especially to mercantile men) from the introduction of regulations into the Post-Office, founded on Mr. Gourlay's doctrine. It is therefore evident that although Mr. Gourlay may be a very *cool* man in his own conceit, he has been rather "hasty" in saying that I take "unwarrantable liberties in this way;" and I am inclined to think that an accusation of this nature from one who is himself glaringly addicted to the bad habit which he affects to reprove, can have weight only with those misguided persons, whose minds are held in leading strings by this doughty champion of reform.

Permit me Mr. Editor, on taking my leave, to seize this opportunity of addressing a few words to my fellow subjects in this District, and of expressing a hope, that before adopting measures for the redress of grievances, they will pause, and calmly consider whether they have any causes of complaint. If they feel themselves aggrieved in any way, their right to petition is unquestionable, but I frankly confess that with my limited knowledge, I can discover no abuses which so pressingly ask for reformation, as to justify the novel and alarming steps, which is proposed for their adoption, of transmitting a Petition on the subject to the Prince Regent through Commissioners appointed by a Provincial *Convention*. Are we not at this moment the most happy people on the face of the globe, possessing a fertile country, "which smiles like Eden in her summer dress," and a free Constitution of Government? Are we not unburdened with taxes, and favoured with the fostering care and protection of the greatest of nations? And can any man of common sense for one instant imagine that the unanimouse petition of the people of Upper Canada, when presented in proper form to our Provincial Parliament, would not meet with that degree of respectful attention to which it is entitled? Away then with your Township Meetings, and your worse than useless Conventions, your designing and malignant spirits!

Let us, my fellow subjects, maturely reflect on the consequences which may result from the prosecution of such extraordinary measures. Let us evince a prudent (tho' it may be termed "unmannerly") distrust of a stranger, who says he comes from afar at great expense of time and money, without any other *earthly* view than to serve us, nor assuredly professions of disinterestedness, which stand almost unrivalled on the page of history, ought at least to be received with caution. Let us set a just value on the many blessings we enjoy, and beware how we become the dupes of a visionary reformer. Let us, if we perceive any abuses in the administration of public affairs, seek for redress in a regular and safe way, and by resolutely spurning at the wild schemes of turbulent

and factious men, endeavour to preserve in all its purity that excellent constitution which has been so generously imparted to us by the British Nation.

JOHN MACAULAY.

*From the Kingston Gazette.*

To JOHN MACAULAY, POST MASTER, KINGSTON.

*Sir,*

In the last Gazette, you appeared before the public, in manner and form to vindicate your opinion and conduct, on a subject of official duty. Had you confined yourself to that subject, no person, I presume, would have been disposed to interfere in the dispute between you and Mr. Gourlay respecting the propriety of your delivering back a letter deposited in the Post Office, directed to him. But, when you stepped beyond the bounds of your own vindication, and "*seized* the opportunity" to address your fellow subjects in this District, in the common place style of those, who, while basking in the sunshine of favour, never see any existing grievances, because they suffer none themselves: you at once prepared a rod for your own back, and placed yourself in an attitude, to invite a lash from any spectator.

You admit the right of petitioning, but can perceive nothing to justify "the novel and alarming step of transmitting a petition to the Prince Regent, through Commissioners appointed by a Provincial Convention;" and ask, with an air of triumphant censure, "Can any man of common sense, for one instant imagine that the unanimous petition of the people of Upper Canada, when presented in proper form to our Provincial Parliament, would not meet with that degree of respectful attention, to which it is entitled?" Sir, the right of petitioning, as you admit, is unquestionable. It is the birth-right of every Englishman, when he thinks himself aggrieved, to petition for relief. In the exercise of this constitutional right, he will naturally present his petition to that branch of the public authorities, which possesses the power of granting the prayer of his petition. If, for instance, it be within the jurisdiction of a judicial Court, he will apply to that Court; if within the limits of Provincial Legislation, the petition will properly be directed to the Provincial Legislature. But, Sir, you must be stupidly ignorant, if you do not know, that the Provincial Parliament have not a particle of control over the land-granting department, in which so much abuse is complained of. That department is a Royal Prerogative. Its regulation is exclusively vested in the Crown. A petition for the removal of evils alledged to exist in that department, therefore, ought emphatically to be addressed to the Prince Regent.—The Provincial Legislature could do no more, in such a case, than petition themselves, to the Prince Re-

gent, or transmit the petitions of the inhabitants. In this view of the subject, my dear little Post Master, would it not have been well if you had taken time to study the nature of our government a little, before you ventured to deliver such a formal lecture upon the proper manner of petitioning, and to denounce, as "*designing and malignant spirits*," those of your neighbours, who happen to differ from you in their opinion of the propriety of directing and transmitting their petitions to the Prince Regent, on subjects on which he is the only competent organ of government to grant the relief prayed for.

SWITCH.

*From the Kingston Gazette.*

## TO MR. ROBERT GOURLAY.

Sir,

You can form no idea of the terrible quandary your Communication in the last Kingston Gazette put me into. I was told the evening before we received the paper, by a half way friend of yours, that you had determined upon "cutting me up," and that he had been the manuscript.—This, you may be sure, put me on fidgets, and on receiving the Gazette the next morning, I eagerly looked for your name, and to ascertain whether mine was coupled with it.—Judge then of the depression of my spirits when I saw these names emblazoned together in print, as a confirmation of my fears. The paper dropt from my hand as it were, from excessive agitation; but when I had afterwards nearly mustered courage enough to stand the lashing, it occurred to me that I had not yet breakfasted, and that as I perhaps, might not digest the portion I was to receive from you so well upon an empty stomach, it would be better to take my usual allowance of tea, bread and butter and eggs. This I accordingly did, though with a sorry appetite, and with trembling anxiety I perused your Communication;—but what was my astonishment as I proceeded, to observe, that instead of blowing me up at once, you had gently raised me to an eminence upon which I am proud of standing, and from which I was "thundering" my "tinker eloquence" to your discomfiture and disgrace.—You have addressed yourself, ostensibly, to your Niagara friends, but in fact, that part at least of your letter which alludes to me, was meant for the perusal and amusement of *the people* of this part of the country. Now, Sir, I shall take the same liberty, and although I address myself to you individually, I am talking to the *same people*.

You observe that when you were at this place, I called

at the Inn, to be introduced to you. It is true, Sir, that I did call, but I was led by the same feeling of curiosity to see you, that we country people are generally actuated by, when we hear of a wild beast being in the neighbourhood for a show. I had heard that you were from the Highlands of Scotland, and knowing that many of the productions of that country are considered very "odd fish," I felt a curiosity to see one that had been so much extolled by his keepers, and had become so noted for his growling qualities. I was, however, much disappointed, for instead of discovering any thing like austerity in your countenance, or seeing you command respect by the dignity of your demeanor, I saw you courting the applause of the spectators by a disgusting affectation of low familiarity. This was soon seen into, and, with the exception of one, or perhaps two, they who were then present, and whose good wishes and support you flattered yourself you had gained, have since become your warmest and most powerful opposers. You have consequently found that you showed yourself to very little advantage and with less *profit*.

You tell the people that I acted as town Clerk, at the annual meeting of the Inhabitants of Adolphustown. Now, Sir, this is incorrect, and I'll tell you wherein. When your first address to the Resident Landholders came out, I enquired after you, and found that you were related to some of the most respectable families at Niagara. I approved of the plans proposed by you in that Address, and previous to the Township Meeting for the appointment of Parish Officers, I drew up a report of Adolphustown, in the form you suggested, from notes that I had taken a long time before, and presented it to the meeting for their consideration. A Chairman was the only officer nominated, and after the Report was examined and approved, it was returned to me, and I gave it to the Post Master, Kingston. Not long after this, your second address was published, other writings followed, and it was soon discovered that you had been acting with duplicity, and that your object was not what you at first led us to believe it was. You forced yourself upon the notice of the people of this country, by methods which seldom fail to excite it. You would introduce novelties that tended merely to excite the passions, and a spirit of innovation in those long established, long tried, rules of Government, those laws, and that Constitution of our country, of the benefits of which every honest subject, every true born Canadian, is proud of boasting that he partakes.—You attacked those whom you knew to be above the reach of your saurrility, because they excited your envy.—You would level those whose virtues and

dignity had elevated them to posts of honor and responsibility; you tried to deceive the credulous with fictitious fears, and to gain over the weak by falsehoods; you flattered the vain and the ignorant, slandered the character of private individuals, and insulted the dignity of office. You set yourself forward as a Patriot, as one self devoted to the cause of restoring and securing to an oppressed country the blessings of liberty and security, of which you would make us believe we were bereft through the inability of our rulers. You proposed schemes by which we are to be relieved from this oppression, and you boldly called upon us not to hesitate in adopting them, telling us that if we did hesitate we should be a ruined people, for you assert the country is already fast sinking into decay and insignificance; and hereby would fain raise a spirit of discontent in the minds of a happy, and, hitherto, contented people, and willingly would you add such fuel to it as would kindle the flame of a disaffection that you would rejoice to see spreading from one end of the Province to the other. Under the mask of Patriotism have you tried to hide the dangers and impurity of your intentions; for can he who endeavors to disturb the peace of his country, be a lover of it—be a Patriot? Can he who circulates opinions and assertions which he knows to be false, & thereby labors to raise discontent, be a lover of his country? I have thought, Sir, that he who promises to carry through, that which he knows he is unable to perform, who would delude his followers by an overheated zeal, should be shunned as too extravagant a promiser, as one who by raising fictitious hopes, inevitably leads us into disappointment, vexation and discontent. You certainly are not one of those midnight incendiaries who lurk in corners, watching an opportunity to light the fire of political faction, but you come forward openly, and you publicly avow your principles, altho' you try, with much art to cloak their object. And in this mode of proceeding is to be discovered the greater danger, for you know whom you are courting, and you know that by plausible braggadocia, you will be better able to impose upon the ignorant, and upon them, who, for this reason, will not take the trouble of enquiring into your motives—But I must stop, or this digression from my original intention, may lead to remarks too lengthy for insertion in the limits of a Newspaper. They may, perhaps, be reserved for a future day, and in a different form. In the mean time, let these suffice, and know, Sir, that such were the considerations which induced me to withdraw the Report you allude to. I took the responsibility upon myself, and I am proud of having it in my

power to inform you that a majority of the subscribers to that Report have declared, that should it yet be proposed to forward it to you, their names should be expunged from the list.—And now, Sir, notwithstanding your knowledge of the law on a particular subject, so positively asserted, let me assure you, that if you have been bred to the profession of Law (which I much doubt), you must have had a Dolt's head, or your instructor has done you very little justice, and must have taken greater pains to make a Scribe of you, than a Lawyer.—In enquiring whether to withdraw the Report was admissible by the Law, you say, that you "know and assert that it *was not*." Now in reply to this, I know and assert it *was*; and thus, as Lawyers say, they are completely at issue, and depend upon it, my good Sir, that unless you proceed to trial, pursuant to your notice, I shall apply to that tribunal to which you are so much in the habit of appealing, for judgement as in case of nonsuit.

You appear to have been sorely galled by the "tinker eloquence" displayed in opposition to your measures, when you were at this place, now a period of nearly a month since, and it seems to have been still tinkling in your ears when you were writing your journal "to the worthy Inhabitants of Niagara." You, very feelingly, would commisserate the situation of Mr. "Byestander," who received a proper chastisement for his impertinent interference,* and you take an abrupt departure from a place where

*"These words of learned length and thundering sound"*

were so likely to have the effect of exposing the views of him, whose proceedings called them forth.—Yes, my good Sir, the "jaws" of your Lawyer did then quiver, they have since been quivering. to counteract your disgraceful measures, and they may yet quiver to your condemnation.

Sir, I am yours, &c.

D. HAGERMAN.

*Bath, 20th June,* 1818.

* The "Byestander," published an excellent reply to this false, foolish, and impertinent letter, which it is pity there is no room for here.

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P. S. Since the above was published in the Spectator, the Montreal Herald, of 25th, and Kingston Gazette, of 28th July, have reached me. The Gazette, contains a letter from Duncan Fraser, Justice of the *Peace*, mentioned above, which the Editor of the Herald, seems, very properly, to have refused publishing, for, says he, "we have nothing to do with Village "boxing, and club warfare, which never can be honorable to any commu- "nity. They are a contempt and mockery of the law of the land" It might have been expected, that, Mr. Miles, after expressing his sorrow for publishing "vindictive calumny," would have been a little consistent. A more gross publication, than that of D. Fraser, need not be penned; but, luckily, "his tongue is no scandal," as the saying is; and, to use another saying "curses, like young chicken, roost at home." E. G.

# Advertisement.

THE whole of Mr. GOURLAY's Writings, &c. from the 30th October, 1817, till 1st of May, 1818, extracted from the Niagara Spectator, &c. and now in the Press, will be published in a few weeks. This Pamphlet, with those of the FRIENDS TO ENQUIRY, will form a continuation to the above.